

HOME ADDRESS IDENTIFICATION

CAN FIRST RESPONDERS
FIND YOUR HOME IN THE
EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY?

The Importance of Marking your Home for First Responders

GPS is a great tool to locate a destination, however, it is not always accurate when minutes count and lives are at stake.

Time can mean the difference between life and death. Therefore, it is important to display a visible, legible address for emergency responders.

Mark your mailbox on both sides—but do not use your mailbox as the only means of identification for your house.

* Before you make any changes, contact your local fire department/ fire marshal for Address Identification ordinances that may apply in your area.

What You Can Do to Help

Follow these tips to help first responders find your home in an emergency:

- If your address is on a yard sign or mailbox near the roadside, post the number so it is visible from both directions of travel.
- Use large reflective or illuminated numbers or background. This allows your address to be clearly seen after sunset.
- Use large numbers and make sure signage can be seen from all directions.
- Avoid using cursive-style words, use numbers only. Block numbers are the easiest to read.

For address numbers placed on the house:

- Place numbers near the front door within a radius of the porch light and above eye level.
- Avoid placing numbers away from the front door, such as above garage doors.
- Standing at the edge of the road and facing your house, hold your thumb up covering the numbers on your house. Do the numbers equal the size of your thumbnail? At night and in an emergency, the “rule of thumb” can be the difference in seconds to minutes.

